

**NSC BRIEFING**

**28 February 1957**

**ARAB SUMMIT MEETING**

- I. Three Arab chiefs of state--Nasr of Egypt, Quwatli of Syria, and Hussain of Jordan--met in Cairo 24-27 February to debate King Saud's report on his talks in Washington.
- II. The communique issued late 27 February contains no mention of opposing communism; with some few exceptions it is the standard catalogue of Arab complaints plus chest-beating about "sovereignty."
  - A. Key points:
    1. King Saud's report of his talks in US given first place; statement on this implies, but does not say directly, that US supports the Arabs on a number of "rights and issues," including Israeli withdrawal and Egyptian sovereignty over Suez Canal.
    2. Reaffirmation in clear terms that "Arab nation" is determined to "stand clear" of the cold war; abide by the policy of constructive neutrality;" and stay "outside the framework of foreign alliances.
    3. Six resolutions which include a demand for "compensation" to Egypt, a denunciation of British "aggression" against Yemen, and a promise of "absolute support" for the right of the Algerian people to independence.
  - B. Statements on Saud's report and neutrality are apparently intended to balance each other, though "neutrality" statement rings louder and clearer.

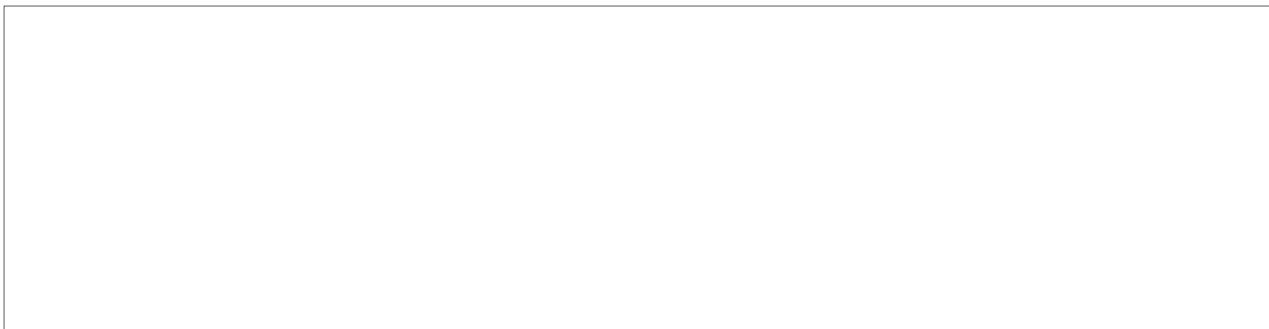
III.

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**A.**



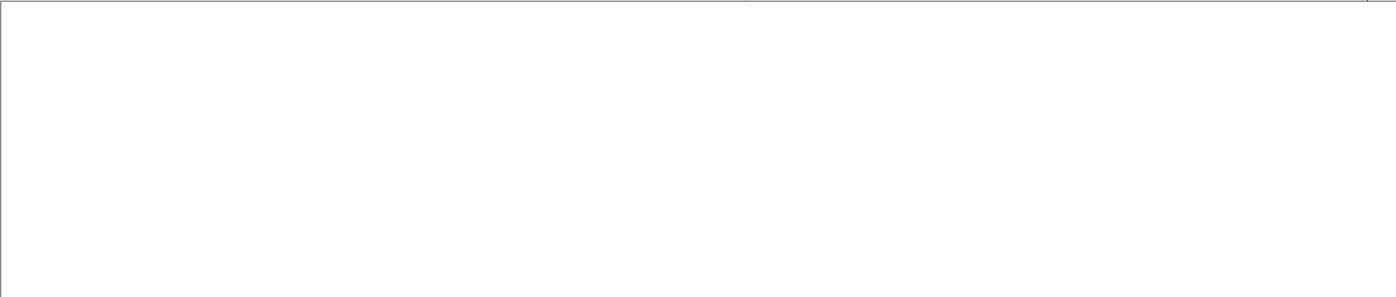
2. After the first formal session, King Saud told Ambassador Hare that the prospect for a favorable outcome of the meeting was "very good."

B. The job of drafting the communique, however, was handed to a subcommittee of four who are anything but moderate pro-Western types--Ali Sabri (Nasr's chief political advisor), Syrian premier Asali, Jordanian premier Nabulsi, and Yusuf Yasin, one of Saud's counsellors who has been particularly unfriendly toward the West.

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**A. Nasr has thus won this round, inasmuch as he gained his objective of a unanimous communique which would counter impressions that he is being isolated from his fellow Arabs.**



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